

Parents AND 4-H CLUB WORK

Findings from an Extension
study made in Massachu -
setts, Maine, New Hampshire
and Ohio in 1947

*For local leaders and Extension workers as a help
in getting parent cooperation.*

From previous studies and opinions of
4-H leaders we know that

good 4-H clubs need

1. favorable
PARENT
ATTITUDE
and INTEREST



and

2. active
PARENT
COOPERATION.



We wanted to find out
what encourages parents to support 4-H?

The study proved that

1. the LEADERS' ATTITUDE
2. special 4-H ACTIVITIES of interest
to parents

promote



PARENT COOPERATION.

There were FOUR GROUPS OF LEADERS

according to their attitude.*

- GROUP 1.** Many expect parents to be very interested and active in everything the Club and its members do.
- GROUP 2.** Others wish them to be very interested only in project work.
- GROUP 3.** Still others want parents to be interested in and helpful with Club activities only.
- GROUP 4.** But a large number expect help only with the ordinary chores of Club work.

All leaders do not expect the same thing of parents.

Leaders in Group 1. got the best parent attitude and interest and the most active cooperation.

* It is recognized that the leaders' attitude will vary according to local problems, training, and policies of the Extension staff.

*These are the ACTIVITIES
which interest or inform
parents:*

Holding regular meetings
in parents' homes.*

Having special social
events with parents.*

Holding other special
events for parents.

Holding several public or
community events to which
parents are invited.

Both leaders and members
inviting parents to meetings.



** These first two activities seem to be
of particular importance.*

Leader visiting parents at least once a year.



Conducting tours to members' homes.



Getting consent of each parent for children's joining clubs.



Personally appealing to parents for help.



Discussing objectives, projects, etc., at meetings.



Taking advantage of chance contacts to talk 4-H.



Giving recognition and appreciation to parents.



PARENTS *will help the* LEADER
with all phases of 4-H work if
first interested and informed.

More than $3/4$ of the parents are
willing to ~

- Attend special 4-H events.
- Attend 4-H exhibits.
- Attend regular Club meetings.
- Discuss with local leaders how they can help.
- Have 4-H meetings in their homes.
- Provide transportation for members.

*But - only $1/8$
to $1/2$ of them
actually DO!*



From 1/2 to 2/3 of the parents are willing to ~

- Help leader plan program.
- Get parents together to discuss 4-H.
- Help leader teach project work.
- Take part in 4-H meeting programs.

But - hardly any of them actually DO!



About 1/3 of the parents are willing to ~

- Serve as 4-H leader.
- Serve on 4-H Council.

But - only 1 out of 100 actually DO!



PARENTS *will help their 4-H'ers*
with project work and other farm
and home activities.

**All or nearly all of the parents are
willing to-**

- Help members select project.
- Help members get material for project.
- Help members with their project.
- Help members with their project records.
- Encourage members to take part in 4-H activities.

**But only 1/2 to 2/3 are already
doing so.**

85 % of the parents are willing to-

- Read 4-H news articles.
- Read all 4-H material sent them.
- Listen to 4-H programs on the radio.

But only 1/2 of the parents are already doing so.



It is generally recognized that parent cooperation is helpful to 4-H Club work. But how much help and what kind of cooperation works best has been a problem for many years.

In an effort to solve this problem, a committee of State and Federal extension workers planned and conducted this cooperative study. In nine counties of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Ohio 458 parents and 152 leaders were interviewed by county, State, and Federal extension workers during the winter and spring of 1947. A statistical summary and complete report titled "A Study of How to Get Parent Cooperation in 4-H Club Work" is being mimeographed and is available for persons interested in detailed results, methods, and procedures. This present bulletin was prepared as a guide to discussions at 4-H leader-training meetings.

The following committee of extension workers is responsible for the study:

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Other extension staff members in each State
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INFORM PARENTS

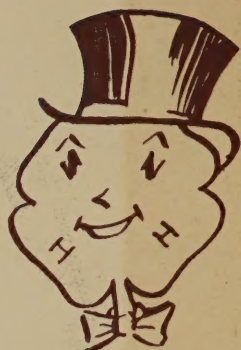
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ASK PARENTS

=

PARENT
COOPERATION

Dear 4-H Leaders-



1. Call on the parents of all your members.
2. Talk with the parents about 4-H work whenever you see them.
3. Hold club meetings in the homes when possible.
4. Arrange for a tour to all members' homes.
5. Help your members to entertain parents. Include them in activities and events.
6. Ask parents to help you.
7. Praise and give thanks freely.